

Message Text

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APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB

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S/S - MR. BRIDGES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 180857 TOSEC 190002

NODIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AEMR, US, LE

SUBJECT: BEIRUT EVACUATION

1. PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATELY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT SADAT :

QUOTE:AS YOU HAVE BEEN INFORMED, WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING TO
EVACUATE AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM BEIRUT. I APPRECIATE THE
HELP WHICH YOU HAVE PROVIDED IN THIS REGARD.

AT NOON ON JULY 21 OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT INFORMED THE
PLO REPRESENTATIVE THAT WE WISHED TO PROCEED TO RESCHEDULE
THE ROAD CONVOY WHICH HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED AND
ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION THAT THE CONVOY COULD TRAVEL TO
DAMASCUS ON JULY 24. LATER THAT DAY THE PLO REPRESENTA-
TIVE REPLIED THAT SATURDAY WAS NOT A GOOD DAY BECAUSE OF
THE GENERALLY UNSTABLE SECURITY SITUATION IN BEIRUT AND

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ELSEWHERE. IN DISCUSSING THE PARTICULARS OF THE

SECURITY SITUATION THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE CITED SUCH MATTERS AS PRESIDENT ASSAD'S RECENT SPEECH WHICH HE CALLED UNHELPFUL, THE FAILURE OF THE TRUCE AT TEL ZATAAR AND THE UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING THE PLO DELEGATION WHICH HAS DEPARTED FOR DAMASCUS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SYRIANS.

YOU WILL REALIZE THAT THIS MESSAGE RESULTS IN AMERICAN CITIZENS BEING HELD AS HOSTAGE TO THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN LEBANON. AS YOU KNOW THIS WOULD BE AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION. I THEREFORE ASK YOUR HELP FOR OUR GETTING AMERICAN CITIZENS OUT OF BEIRUT BY ANY MEANS AVAILABLE, INCLUDING BY LAND OR BY SEA, AS WAS DONE PREVIOUSLY. IN ORDER TO PREVENT A MAJOR CALAMITY FOR ALL WE ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH THE PLO LEADERSHIP WITHOUT DELAY AND EXPRESS TO THEM IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE NEED TO FACILITATE THE EVACUATION OF OUR CITIZENS FROM BEIRUT. UNQUOTE

2. FYI. WE WANT THIS MESSAGE TO GET TO THE PLO FROM THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT AND THEREFORE ARE NOT INSTRUCTING SEELYE TO CONVEY IT TO THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT. END FYI. ROBINSON

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